



**Public Hearing Written Testimony of
Dennis C. Murphy, Acting Labor Commissioner**

**Labor and Public Employees Committee
February 10, 2011**

Good Afternoon Senator Prague, Representative Zalaski and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with written testimony regarding **H.B. #6096 An Act Concerning Preserving Good Cause for Late Filing of Certain Unemployment Compensation Appeals** on your public hearing agenda today. My name is Dennis Murphy and I am the Acting Commissioner of the Department of Labor.

I respectfully request that you vote favorably upon House Bill 6096. This bill is technical in nature and carries no fiscal impact to the state general fund.

Under current law, an unemployment compensation claimant has 21 days to appeal a decision that he or she received either (1) an overpayment of benefits or (2) benefits through fraud. This bill allows appeals after 21 days of either type of decision if the claimant shows good cause for the late filing. Under law and unchanged by the bill, the 21 days for appeal begins when the decision notice is mailed to the claimant. The bill also permits an appeal or motion to be timely within the 21-day period if it bears a U. S. Postal Service postmark indicating it was mailed within 21 days. It specifies that appeals with postmarks from private postage meters are not timely if received after the 21 days. *This legislative proposal provides no new rights to appellants, but merely codifies the Department's long-standing interpretation, which has been upheld by Connecticut courts, that the General Assembly's intent was to ensure that all decisions arising under the Unemployment Compensation Act may be appealed, including those pertaining to CGS 31-273.*

During the 2010 regular session, this bill received unanimous support in this Committee and the State Senate. However, the Legislative Session adjourned before a vote was taken in the House of Representatives.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Please feel free to contact me or my staff if you need additional information.